

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (*Currently Amended*) A loudspeaker apparatus comprising:

a single loudspeaker array comprising a plurality of loudspeaker elements arranged in a plurality of stacked horizontal rows; and

an audio signal processing unit that drives a plurality of loudspeaker blocks including at least a center-channel loudspeaker block, a front left-channel loudspeaker block, and a front right-channel loudspeaker block each composed of a group of loudspeaker elements in the loudspeaker array, respectively with a plurality of audio signals including at least a front left-channel signal, a front right-channel signal, and a center-channel signal,

wherein the center-channel loudspeaker block includes all of the loudspeaker elements in at least one of the plurality of stacked horizontal rows, ~~and~~

~~wherein at least some of the loudspeaker elements contained in one of the rows of one of the loudspeaker blocks are also part of another of the loudspeaker blocks, and~~

wherein the plurality of stacked horizontal rows are composed of first, second, and third stacked horizontal rows,

wherein the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first and second horizontal rows,

wherein the front right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second and third horizontal rows, and

wherein the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row, a left half of one of the first or third horizontal row, and right half of the other of the first or third horizontal row.

2-3. (*Canceled*)

4. (*Previously Presented*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each of the stacked horizontal rows is constructed as a separate unit, and the loudspeaker array is composed of the separate units that are stacked.

5. *(Previously Presented)* A loudspeaker apparatus comprising:

a loudspeaker array comprising a plurality of loudspeaker elements arranged in a plurality of stacked horizontal rows; and

an audio signal processing unit that drives a plurality of loudspeaker blocks including at least a center-channel loudspeaker block, a front left-channel loudspeaker block, and a front right-channel loudspeaker block, each composed of a group of loudspeaker elements in the loudspeaker array, respectively with a plurality of audio signals including at least a front left-channel signal, a front right-channel signal, and a center-channel signal,

wherein the center-channel loudspeaker block includes all of the loudspeaker elements in at least one of the plurality of stacked horizontal rows,

wherein each of the front left-channel and front right-channel loudspeaker blocks comprises a loudspeaker block for a high range and a loudspeaker block for a low range, and

wherein a width of the loudspeaker block for the high range of each of the front left-channel and front right-channel loudspeaker blocks is smaller than a width of the loudspeaker block for the low range of each of the front left-channel and front right-channel loudspeaker blocks.

6. *(Canceled)*

7. *(Previously Presented)* The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the loudspeaker block is configured so that output sound pressure of the respective loudspeaker rows becomes substantially uniform.

8. *(Previously Presented)* A loudspeaker apparatus comprising:

a loudspeaker array comprising a plurality of loudspeaker elements arranged in a plurality of stacked horizontal rows; and

an audio signal processing unit that drives a plurality of loudspeaker blocks including at least a center-channel loudspeaker block, a front left-channel loudspeaker block, and a front right-channel loudspeaker block, each composed of a group of loudspeaker elements in the loudspeaker array, respectively with a plurality of audio signals including at least a front left-channel signal, a front right-channel signal, and a center-channel signal, and divides at least each of the front left-channel and front right-channel audio signals into a plurality of frequency band signals, including a high frequency range signal and a low frequency range signal,

wherein each of the front left-channel and front right-channel loudspeaker blocks comprises a first loudspeaker block for the high range signal and a second loudspeaker block for the low range signal,

wherein the audio signal processing unit drives each of the first loudspeaker blocks composed of less than all of the speaker elements in each of at least two rows among the plurality of stacked horizontal rows of loudspeaker elements,

wherein the audio signal processing unit drives each of the second loudspeaker blocks composed of all of the loudspeaker elements in a single horizontal row among the plurality of stacked horizontal rows, and

wherein a width of the first loudspeaker block for the high range signal of each of the front left-channel and front right-channel loudspeaker blocks is smaller than a width of the second loudspeaker block for the low range signal of each of the front left-channel and front right-channel loudspeaker blocks.

9. *(Previously Presented)* The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 5, wherein adjacent stacked horizontal rows are horizontally offset from each other so that vertically adjacent loudspeaker elements in the adjacent stacked horizontal rows are horizontally offset from one another.

10. *(Previously Presented)* The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 8, wherein adjacent stacked horizontal rows are horizontally offset from each other so that vertically adjacent loudspeaker elements in the adjacent stacked horizontal rows are horizontally offset from one another.

11. *(Currently Amended)* The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5, wherein the plurality of loudspeaker blocks further include a rear left-channel loudspeaker block and a rear right-channel loudspeaker block, each also composed of a group of loudspeaker elements in the loudspeaker array, respectively with the plurality of audio signals including a rear left-channel signal and a rear right-channel signal.

12-13. *(Canceled)*

14. (*Previously Presented*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

the plurality of horizontal rows are composed of first and second stacked horizontal rows,

the first horizontal row includes the front left-channel loudspeaker block, a first part of the center-channel loudspeaker block, and the rear left-channel loudspeaker block, and

the second horizontal row includes the front-right channel loudspeaker block, a second part the center-channel loudspeaker block, and the rear right-channel loudspeaker block.

15. (*Previously Presented*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 14, wherein:

the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first and second horizontal rows,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row,

the rear left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row,

the front right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row, and

the rear right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row.

16. (*Previously Presented*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

the plurality of stacked horizontal rows are composed of first, second, and third stacked horizontal rows,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row,

the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row,

the front right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the third horizontal row,

the rear left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first and second horizontal rows, and

the rear right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second and third horizontal rows.

17. (*Canceled*)

18. (*Previously Presented*) A loudspeaker comprising:

a loudspeaker array comprising a plurality of loudspeaker elements arranged in a plurality of stacked horizontal rows; and

an audio signal processing unit that divides an audio signal into a plurality of frequency band signals, including a high frequency range signal and a low frequency range signal,

wherein the audio signal processing unit drives, with the high frequency range signal, a first loudspeaker block composed of less than all of the speaker elements in each of at least two rows among the plurality of stacked horizontal rows of loudspeaker elements,

wherein the audio signal processing unit drives, with the low frequency range signal, a second loudspeaker block composed of all of the loudspeaker elements in a single horizontal row among the plurality of stacked horizontal rows,

wherein the audio signal is composed of a left-channel signal, a center-channel signal, and a right-channel signal,

wherein the processing unit divides each of the left-channel and right-channel signals into the high frequency range signal and the low frequency range signal,

wherein the first loudspeaker block is composed of a left half of the at least two horizontal rows for the high frequency range signal of the left-channel signal,

wherein the second loudspeaker block is composed of one of the at least two horizontal rows for the low frequency range signal of the left-channel signal,

wherein the audio signal processing unit drives a third loudspeaker block composed of a right half of the at least two horizontal rows for the high frequency range signal of the right-channel signal,

wherein the audio signal processing unit drives a fourth loudspeaker block composed of the other of the at least two rows for the low frequency range signal of the right-channel signal, and

wherein the audio signal processing unit drives a fifth loudspeaker block composed of the at least two horizontal rows for the center-channel signal.

19. (*Previously Presented*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the plurality of stacked horizontal rows of loudspeakers elements are composed of first, second, and third stacked horizontal rows,

the first loudspeaker block for the high frequency range signal of the left-channel signal is composed of a left half of the first and second horizontal rows,

the second loudspeaker block for the low frequency range signal of the left-channel signal is composed of the first horizontal row,

the first loudspeaker block for the high frequency range signal of the right-channel signal is composed of a right half of the second and third horizontal rows for the high frequency range signal of the right-channel signal,

the second loudspeaker block for the low frequency range signal of the right-channel signal is composed of the third row, and

the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row for the center-channel signal.

20. (*Currently Amended*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim [[1]] 5, wherein:

the plurality of horizontal rows of the loudspeaker elements are composed of first and second stacked horizontal rows,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row, and

the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first and second horizontal rows.